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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: UEMURA=7

In re Application of:)	Conf. No.: 8300
)	
Hideotoshi UEMURA et. al.)	Art Unit: 1646
)	
Appln. No.: 09/856,371)	Examiner:
)	
Date Filed or 102(e) date:)	
May 21, 2001)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: NOVEL SERINE PROTEASE BSSP2)		June 4, 2004

FOURTH REQUEST FOR STATUS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

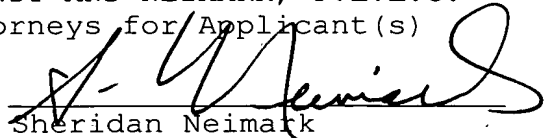
Sir:

As more than 37 months have passed since this application was filed or entered into the United States National Stage and no office action on the merits has yet been received, the applicants hereby respectfully make inquiry as to the status of the above-identified application.

As 37 CFR 1.2 states that the action of the PTO "will be based exclusively on the written record", applicant needs and therefore **requests a written reply**.

Respectfully submitted,

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